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**Sustainable development**

**Oceans and the law of the sea**

**Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly**

# Modalities for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 70/226 of 22 December 2015 in its entirety, and its decision to convene the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development from 5 to 9 June 2017 in Fiji, coinciding with World Oceans Day, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

*Recognizing* synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,[4]

*Recalling* paragraph 2 of its resolution 70/226, in which it decided that all costs relating to the Conference and its preparations shall be financed through extrabudgetary resources,

*Recalling also* paragraph 3 of its resolution 70/226, welcoming the generous offer by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden to co-host and assume the costs of the Conference,

[1] Resolution 70/1.
[2] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[3] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[4] Resolution 69/283, annex.



Please recycle

*Acknowledging* the exceptional circumstances being experienced by the Government of Fiji arising from the extensive devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Winston, which struck the nation in February 2016, and taking note of the subsequent request by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden to change the venue of the Conference,[5]

1. *Decides* that the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development shall be convened at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 9 June 2017, in view of the exceptional circumstances;

2. *Also decides* that the Governments of Fiji and Sweden shall retain co-hosting responsibilities by assuming the costs of the Conference and its preparatory process;

3. *Further decides* that the Conference shall:

(a) Identify ways and means to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14;

(b) Build on existing successful partnerships and stimulate innovative and concrete new partnerships to advance the implementation of Goal 14;

(c) Involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as actions taken towards, the implementation of Goal 14;

(d) Share the experiences gained at the national, regional and international levels in the implementation of Goal 14;

(e) Contribute to the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] by providing an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in accordance with resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013, 70/1 of 25 September 2015 and 70/299 of 29 July 2016, on the implementation of Goal 14, including on opportunities to strengthen progress in the future;

4. *Decides* that the overarching theme of the Conference shall be "Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14";

5. *Encourages* participation in the Conference at the highest possible level;

6. *Decides* that the Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: two Presidents, one from Fiji and one from Sweden, and 13 Vice-Presidents,[6] one of whom shall be designated as Rapporteur-General;

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[5] A/70/1027.

[6] Three from each of the following groups: African States; Asia-Pacific States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; and Western European and other States. The election of the Presidents will, however, have the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidents allocated to the regions from which each of the Presidents is elected.

7. *Also decides* that the Conference shall comprise eight plenary meetings and seven partnership dialogues, to be held from 5 to 9 June 2017, and shall include a special event commemorating World Oceans Day, on 8 June 2017;

8. *Further decides* that the plenary meetings will be held as follows:

Monday, 5 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 8 June: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.;

9. *Decides* that the special event commemorating World Oceans Day will be held on 8 June, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.;

10. *Also decides* that the partnership dialogues will be held in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Monday, 5 June: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 8 June: 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.;

11. *Further decides* that the partnership dialogues shall be interactive and multi-stakeholder in nature and will focus on recommendations to support the implementation of Goal 14, including through strengthened cooperation, building on existing successful partnerships and stimulating innovative and concrete new ones;

12. *Decides* that the organizational arrangements for the partnership dialogues will be as follows:

(a) Each partnership dialogue will be presided over by two co-chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to be appointed by the Presidents of the Conference;

(b) The Secretary-General of the Conference will select a moderator and up to four panellists for each of the partnership dialogues. The panel discussions, facilitated by the moderator, will be followed by an interactive debate among States and other relevant stakeholders;

13. *Recommends* the provisional agenda set forth in annex I to the present resolution for adoption by the Conference;

14. *Decides* that the Conference shall be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

15. *Recommends* the provisional rules of procedure set forth in annex III to the present resolution for adoption by the Conference;

16. *Decides* that the Conference shall adopt by consensus a concise, focused, intergovernmentally agreed declaration in the form of a "Call for Action" to support the implementation of Goal 14 and a report containing the co-chairs' summaries of

the partnership dialogues, as well as a list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of Goal 14, to be announced at the Conference;

17. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to oversee the preparatory process and to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on a "Call for Action" by May 2017;

18. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene a two-day preparatory meeting, in February 2017, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, to be chaired by the two co-facilitators, with interpretation services on an as-available basis, with a view to considering the themes for the partnership dialogues and elements for a "Call for Action";

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a background note by the end of January 2017, including a proposal for themes of the partnership dialogues, for the preparatory meeting;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare concept papers on each of the themes of the partnership dialogues, taking into account the relevant oceans-related processes of the General Assembly, and in that regard invites the stakeholders referred to in paragraph 3 (c) above to submit inputs;

21. *Requests* the co-facilitators to present a concise draft "Call for Action" no later than March 2017, taking into account the deliberations of the preparatory meeting and other inputs, without prejudice to the processes established by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/292 of 19 June 2015;

22. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements for the Conference no later than April 2017;

23. *Decides* that the Conference and its preparatory process shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, recognizing that neither participation in the preparatory process and the Conference nor its outcome may affect the legal status of non-parties to the Convention or any other related agreements with regard to those instruments, or the legal status of parties to the Convention or any other related agreements with regard to those instruments;

24. *Invites* other relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations, whose work is relevant to the Conference, accredited in accordance with the provisions set forth in annex II, to participate as observers in the Conference and its preparatory meeting;

25. *Calls* for the participation of associate members of the regional commissions in the Conference and the preparatory meeting, in the same capacity specified for their participation in the global conferences on the sustainable development of small island developing States held in 1994, 2005 and 2014;

26. *Decides* that the accreditation to the Conference and the preparatory meeting shall be in accordance with the provisions set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide appropriate support from all relevant parts of the Secretariat, and in cooperation with other relevant parts of the United Nations system, to the work of the Conference and to facilitate inter-agency cooperation to that end, as well as to ensure the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be achieved;

28. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General of the Conference to serve as focal point within the Secretariat for providing support to the organization of the Conference;

29. *Encourages* States and international donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to a trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, priority being given to representatives of the least developed countries and small island developing States, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses, in the meetings of the Conference and its preparatory meeting.

# Annex I
# Provisional agenda of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

## United Nations Headquarters, 5 to 9 June 2017

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of two Presidents.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda of the Conference.
5. Election of officers other than the Presidents.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters.
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. General debate.
9. Partnership dialogues.
10. Special event commemorating World Oceans Day.
11. Outcome of the Conference.
12. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
13. Closure of the Conference.

# Annex II
# Proposed organization of work of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

## United Nations Headquarters, 5 to 9 June 2017

1. The arrangements set out below have been formulated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/226 of 22 December 2015.

2. The United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development will be held at United Nations Headquarters, from 5 to 9 June 2017.

## I. Organization of work

### A. Plenary meetings

3. The Conference will consist of a total of eight plenary meetings, to be held as follows:

Monday, 5 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 8 June: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

4. The eight plenary meetings will be devoted to statements.

5. The list of speakers for the plenary meetings will be established on a first-come first-served basis, with the customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by other heads of delegation. The European Union will be included in the list of speakers. Detailed arrangements will be communicated in a timely manner through a note by the Secretariat.

6. At the formal opening of the Conference, to take place during the plenary meeting to be held on the morning of Monday, 5 June, consideration will be given to all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda, the election of the two Presidents of the Conference, the election of officers, the establishment of subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee, arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference and other matters. At the opening, statements will be made by the Presidents of the Conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General of the Conference. The plenary meetings will also hear statements from representatives of other

intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as major groups and other stakeholders listed in paragraph 24 in accordance with the practices of the General Assembly.

7. The closing plenary meeting, to be held on the afternoon of Friday, 9 June, is expected to conclude with reporting on the partnership dialogues, to be followed by the adoption of the "Call for Action" and of the report of the Conference.

8. The plenary meetings will run in parallel with the partnership dialogues, unless otherwise specified in the present resolution.

### B. Partnership dialogues

9. The Conference will include seven partnership dialogues, to be held in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Monday, 5 June: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 8 June: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

10. Summaries of the partnership dialogues should be submitted to the Conference at its closing plenary meeting and included in the final report of the Conference.

### C. Special event commemorating World Oceans Day

11. The special event commemorating World Oceans Day will be held on 8 June 2017, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### D. Main Committee

12. The Main Committee, established in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference, will meet, if necessary, in parallel with plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing meetings, and will be responsible for finalizing any outstanding matters.

## II. Credentials of representatives to the Conference: appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

13. The Credentials Committee will be appointed according to the rules of procedure of the Conference.

## III. Accreditation: institutional stakeholders

14. Other relevant intergovernmental organizations that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Conference on

Sustainable Development and to previous United Nations conferences on sustainable development of the small island developing States, held in Barbados, Mauritius and Samoa, including associate members of the regional commissions, may participate in the deliberations of the Conference and its preparatory meeting, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of the procedures of the Conference.

15. Interested intergovernmental organizations that were not accredited to the conferences and summits listed in paragraph 14 above may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure.

## IV. Accreditation: non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders

16. The non-governmental organizations and major groups as identified in Agenda 21, in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as those that were accredited to conferences and summits listed in paragraph 14 above shall register in order to participate.

17. The President of the General Assembly shall also draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations whose work is relevant to the Conference, who may participate in the Conference and its preparatory meeting as observers, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and shall submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis and bring the list to the attention of the General Assembly.[7]

18. The provisions of paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Conference and its preparatory process.

## V. Secretariat

19. The Secretary-General of the Conference will serve as focal point within the Secretariat for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the representatives of the two Presidents.

## VI. Documentation

20. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, the official documentation of the Conference will include documents issued before, during and after the Conference.

21. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the Conference adopt a report consisting of the

[7] The list will include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.

decisions of the Conference, including a "Call for Action", a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.

22. Summaries of the plenary meetings and partnership dialogues and a list of voluntary commitments announced at the Conference for the implementation of Goal 14 should also be included in the report of the Conference.

## VII. Organization of parallel meetings and other events of the Conference

23. Parallel meetings and other events, including those of major groups and other stakeholders, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and partnership dialogues, space permitting. Interpretation services will be provided for such meetings, as available.

## VIII. Side events

24. Side events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to the implementation of Goal 14, will be organized by participants in the Conference. Guidelines for organizing such events and the calendar of those events will be made available on the Conference website.

## IX. Media coverage

25. Press materials will be prepared by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for journalists covering the Conference. In addition, regular press releases will be issued on the results of plenary meetings, partnership dialogues, the special event commemorating World Oceans Day and other events. All relevant documentation will be made available on the Conference website.

26. The plenary meetings, the partnership dialogues, the special event commemorating World Oceans Day and the press conferences will be broadcast live to the media area. A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

# Annex III
# Provisional rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

## I. Representation and credentials

### Rule 1
### Composition of delegations

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference and that of the European Union shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

### Rule 2
### Alternates and advisers

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

### Rule 3
### Submission of credentials

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, if possible, not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of the European Union, by the President of the European Council or the President of the European Commission.

### Rule 4
### Credentials Committee

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

### Rule 5
### Provisional participation in the Conference

Pending a decision of the Conference on their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

## II. Officers

### Rule 6
### Elections

The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: two Presidents, one from Fiji and one from Sweden, each of whom shall preside separately. The Conference shall also elect 13 Vice-Presidents,[8] one of whom shall be designated as Rapporteur-General, as well as a chair for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. The officers shall be elected with a view to ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

### Rule 7
### General powers of the presiding President

1. The Presidents shall take turns in presiding at the plenary meetings of the Conference. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these rules, the presiding President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The presiding President shall rule on points of order and, subject to those rules, shall have complete control over the proceedings and the maintenance of order thereat. The presiding President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or closure of the debate and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

2. The presiding Presidents remain, in the exercise of their functions, under the authority of the Conference.

### Rule 8
### Acting President

1. If either President is to be absent from a meeting or any part thereof, the presiding President may designate one of the Vice-Presidents to preside.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

### Rule 9
### Replacement of a President

If either or both Presidents are unable to perform their functions, a new President(s) shall be elected.

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[8] Three from each of the following groups: African States; Asia-Pacific States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; and Western European and other States. The election of the two Presidents will, however, have the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidents allocated to the regions from which each of the Presidents is elected.

**Rule 10**
**Voting rights of the Presidents**

Both Presidents, or a Vice-President acting as a President, shall not vote in the Conference, but may appoint another member of their delegation to vote in their place.

## III. General Committee

**Rule 11**
**Composition**

The two Presidents, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chair of the Main Committee shall constitute the General Committee. The two Presidents or, in their absence, one of the Vice-Presidents designated by them, shall serve as Chair of the General Committee. The Chair of the Credentials Committee and other committees established by the Conference in accordance with rule 48 may participate, without the right to vote, in the General Committee.

**Rule 12**
**Substitute members**

If a President or a Vice-President of the Conference is to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee, he/she may designate a member of his/her delegation to sit and vote in the Committee. In case of absence, the Chair of the Main Committee shall designate the Vice-Chair of that Committee as his/her substitute. When serving on the General Committee, a Vice-Chair of the Main Committee shall not have the right to vote if he/she is a member of the same delegation as another member of the General Committee.

**Rule 13**
**Functions**

The General Committee shall assist both Presidents in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of the work of the Conference.

## IV. Secretariat of the Conference

**Rule 14**
**Duties of the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or her/his designated representative shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations may designate a member of the secretariat to act in her/his place at these meetings.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations or her/his designated representative shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

**Rule 15**
**Duties of the secretariat of the Conference**

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with the present rules:

(a) Provide simultaneous interpretation of speeches made at meetings;

(b) Receive, translate, reproduce and circulate the documents of the Conference;

(c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the Conference;

(d) Prepare and circulate records of public meetings;

(e) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings of meetings;

(f) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations;

(g) Generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

**Rule 16**
**Statements by the Secretariat**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, or any member of the Secretariat designated for that purpose, may, at any time, make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

## V. Opening of the Conference

**Rule 17**
**Temporary President**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations or, in his/her absence, any member of the Secretariat designated by him/her for that purpose, shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its Presidents.

**Rule 18**
**Decisions concerning organization**

The Conference shall, at its first meeting:

(a) Adopt its rules of procedure;

(b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;

(c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

(d) Decide on the organization of its work.

# VI. Conduct of business

**Rule 19**
**Quorum**

The presiding President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the representatives of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

**Rule 20**
**Speeches**

1. No representative may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the presiding President. Subject to rules 21, 22 and 25 to 27, the presiding President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they indicate their desire to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.

2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the presiding President may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each participant may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, with the consent of the Conference, the presiding President shall limit each intervention on procedural matters to five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the presiding President shall call him/her to order without delay.

**Rule 21**
**Points of order**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the presiding President in accordance with the present rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the presiding President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the presiding President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

**Rule 22**
**Precedence**

The Chair or the Rapporteur-General of the Main Committee, or the representative of a subcommittee or working group, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the body concerned.

**Rule 23**
**Closing of the list of speakers**

During the course of a debate, the presiding President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed.

**Rule 24**
**Right of reply**

1. Notwithstanding rule 23, the presiding President shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference or of the European Union who requests it. Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.

2. The statements made under the present rule shall normally be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant item if that is sooner.

3. Representatives of a State or of the European Union may make no more than two statements under the present rule at a given meeting on any item. The first shall be limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes; representatives shall, in any event, attempt to be as brief as possible.

**Rule 25**
**Adjournment of debate**

A representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two representatives in favour and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

**Rule 26**
**Closure of debate**

A representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his/her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, immediately be put to the vote.

**Rule 27**
**Suspension or adjournment of the meeting**

Subject to rule 38, a representative of any State participating in the Conference may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

**Rule 28**
**Order of motions**

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

**Rule 29**
**Submission of proposals and substantive amendments**

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General or his designated representative, who shall circulate copies to all delegations in the languages of the Conference. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall be discussed or put to a decision no earlier than 24 hours after copies have been circulated to all delegations. The presiding President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though those amendments have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day.

**Rule 30**
**Withdrawal of proposals and motions**

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

**Rule 31**
**Decisions on competence**

Subject to rule 28, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

**Rule 32**
**Reconsideration of proposals**

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded to only two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall immediately be put to the vote.

## VII. Decision-making

**Rule 33**
**General agreement**

The Conference shall adopt a declaration in the form of a "Call for Action", by consensus, and make its best endeavour to ensure that all the other work of the Conference is accomplished by consensus.

**Rule 34**
**Voting rights**

Each State participating in the Conference shall have one vote.

**Rule 35**
**Majority required**

1. Subject to rule 33, decisions of the Conference on all matters of substance shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting.

2. Except as otherwise provided in the present rules, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the presiding President of the Conference shall rule on the question. An appeal against that ruling shall immediately be put to the vote, and the presiding President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

4. If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

**Rule 36**
**Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"**

For the purpose of the present rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

**Rule 37**
**Method of voting**

1. Except as provided in rule 44, the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll call. A representative may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Conference.

3. The vote of each State participating in a roll-call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

**Rule 38**
**Conduct during voting**

After the presiding President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting, except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

**Rule 39**
**Explanation of vote**

Representatives may make brief statements, consisting solely of explanations of vote, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The presiding President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.

**Rule 40**
**Division of proposals**

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be decided on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to only two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the Conference for decision as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

**Rule 41**
**Amendments**

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these rules shall be regarded as including amendments.

**Rule 42**
**Order of voting on amendments**

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

**Rule 43**
**Order of voting on proposals**

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case, the original proposal shall be regarded as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

**Rule 44**
**Elections**

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or slate of candidates.

**Rule 45**
**Balloting**

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled.

## VIII. Subsidiary bodies

**Rule 46**
**Main Committee**

The Conference may establish a Main Committee, as required, which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

**Rule 47**
**Representation on the Main Committee**

Each State participating in the Conference and the European Union may be represented by one representative on the Main Committee established by the Conference. They may assign to the Committee such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

**Rule 48**
**Other committees and working groups**

1. In addition to the Main Committee referred to above, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

2. Subject to the decision of the plenary of the Conference, the Main Committee may set up subcommittees and working groups.

**Rule 49**
**Members of committees, subcommittees and working groups**

1. The members of the committees and working groups of the Conference, referred to in rule 48, paragraph 1, shall be appointed by the two Presidents, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

2. Members of the subcommittees and working groups of committees shall be appointed by the Chair of the committee in question, subject to the approval of that committee, unless the committee decides otherwise.

**Rule 50**
**Officers**

Except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

**Rule 51**
**Quorum**

1. The Chair of the Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

2. A majority of the representatives of the General Committee or the Credentials Committee or of any committee, subcommittee or working group shall constitute a quorum provided that they are representatives of participating States.

**Rule 52**
**Officers, conduct of business and voting**

The rules contained in sections II, VI (except rule 19) and VII above shall be applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of committees, subcommittees and working groups, except that:

(a) The Chairs of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee and the Chairs of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may exercise the right to vote, provided that they are representatives of participating States;

(b) Decisions of committees, subcommittees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or an amendment shall require the majority established by rule 32.

## IX. Languages and records

**Rule 53**
**Languages of the Conference**

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

**Rule 54**
**Interpretation**

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one such language.

**Rule 55**
**Languages of official documents**

Official documents of the Conference shall be made available in the languages of the Conference.

**Rule 56**
**Sound recordings of meetings**

Sound recordings of the plenary meetings of the Conference, the partnership dialogues, the special event to commemorate World Oceans Day, as well as of the meetings of the Main Committee, shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference or the Main Committee, no such recordings shall be made of any of the other meetings of the Conference.

## X. Public and private meetings

**Rule 57**
**General principles**

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any committee shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise. All decisions taken by the plenary of the Conference at a private meeting shall be announced at an early public meeting of the plenary.

**Rule 58**

As a general rule, meetings of the General Committee, subcommittees or working groups shall be held in private.

**Rule 59**
**Communiqués on private meetings**

At the close of a private meeting, the presiding officer of the organ concerned may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General of the United Nations or his designated representative.

## XI. Other participants and observers

**Rule 60**
**Intergovernmental organizations and other entities[9] that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observer in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices**

Representatives designated by intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observer in the sessions and work of all international

[9] For the purpose of the present rules, the term "other entities" includes the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Olympic Committee, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

conferences convened under its auspices have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

**Rule 61**
**Associate members of regional commissions**[10]

Representatives designated by the associate members of regional commissions listed in the footnote below may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

**Rule 62**
**Representatives of the specialized agencies and related organizations**[11]

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies and related organizations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

**Rule 63**
**Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations**

Save where otherwise specifically provided with respect to the European Union in these rules of procedure, representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

**Rule 64**
**Representatives of interested United Nations organs**

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

[10] American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Curaçao, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Guam, Martinique, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

[11] For the purpose of the present rules, the term "related organizations" includes the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Criminal Court, the International Seabed Authority, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the World Trade Organization.

**Rule 65**
**Representatives of non-governmental organizations**[12]

1. Non-governmental organizations accredited to participate in the Conference may designate representatives to attend public meetings of the Conference and the Main Committee as observers.

2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the Conference and subject to the approval of the Conference, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence. If the number of requests to speak is too large, the non-governmental organizations shall be requested to form themselves into constituencies, such constituencies to speak through spokespersons.

**Rule 66**
**Written statements**

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 60 to 65 shall be circulated by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and the languages in which the statements are made available to it at the site of the Conference, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization must be related to the work of the Conference and be on a subject in which the organization has a special competence. Written statements shall not be made available at United Nations expense and shall not be issued as official documents.

## XII. Suspension and amendment of the rules of procedure

**Rule 67**
**Method of suspension**

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

**Rule 68**
**Method of amendment**

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

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[12] Paragraph 23.3 of Agenda 21 provides that "Any policies, definitions or rules affecting access to and participation by non-governmental organizations in the work of United Nations institutions or agencies associated with the implementation of Agenda 21 must apply equally to all major groups". Agenda 21 defines major groups as comprising women, children and youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and their trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers. Therefore, based on Agenda 21, rule 65 shall apply equally to non-governmental organizations and other major groups.